(b) if so, what steps Government proposed to take so that this exodus of Sikhs from Kashmir valley is stopped and a sense of security amongst them is restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No Sir, however, Pan-Islamic outfits operating in J&K keep trying to create a communal divide by resorting to in-group killing of members of minority communities and thereby creating an atmosphere of fear with the aim to ethnic cleansing and forcing their exodus. To prevent it, the State Government have taken various preventive/confidence building measures which inter-alia include:

— Strengthening the Village Defence Committee system by providing them Training and improved weaponary and communication equipment;

— Strengthening the security grid around the minority inhabited villages;

— Increased frequency of patrolling by security forces of sensitive and vulnerable areas;

— Visits by State Government and security force officers to remote and minority villages.

After the incidents of Mehjoor Nagar, the State Government had further reviewed the security arrangements for minorities and remote and scattered populations. In addition there is a constant monitoring of the security situation by the respective Unified Headquarters level at Jammu & Srinagar as well as in Operations groups at various lower levels with a view to dynamic deployment and adoption of strategies by the security forces to meet the various challenges being thrown up by the terrorists. Government of India continues to provide support to the State Government and the security forces in their efforts.

Slow pace of generation of energy

†1244. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pace of generation of energy from non-conventional sources in India is very slow;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even one-tenth of the potential energy is not being generated by the total alternative sources; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to increase generation of energy from non-conventional sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) No, Sir. The Ministry under its various programmes such as wind, hydro, biomass, solar and urban and industrial wastes has installed a cumulative capacity of about 300 MW by end of 31st December, 2000 which is about 3% of the total installed capacity of energy generation in the country. This compares favourably with most of the world.

(b) and (c) The exploitation of potential of non-conventional energy is a continuous and on-going process which offers limitless possibilities for its use and is expected to increase sharply in coming years depending upon the availability of financial resources both public and private and technical feasibility and economic viability of available technologies. In addition, the Ministry is implementing a wide range of programmes/schemes to exploit the potential and to encourage utilisation, promotion and development of non-conventional energy sources, by providng various fiscal, financial and promotional incentives including central subsidy, soft term loans and conducive renewable energy power policies for wheeling, banking, buy-back and third party sale of renewable energy power.

Power sector reforms

1245. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the action to pursue power sector reforms and put in place better transmission and distribution systems in view of acute power crisis in Northern Grid during January, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): Immediately after the grid collapse, Minister of Power addressed a letter to the Chief Minister of UP and to all the Chief Ministers advising them to ensure grid discipline by restricting their drawals from the grid in accordance with their allocated quota and grid requirements. Secretary (Power) on 11.1.2001 directed Chairman, Central Electricity Authority to monitor the action taken on weekly basis for implementing the recommendations made for preventing recurrence of such incidents. Chairman, Central Electricity Authority was also directed to indicate punitive action required to be taken against those responsible for the grid collapse. The implementation of the Action Plan